

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A system for quickly retrieving information that is related to a specific topic, the system comprises:

a plurality of processing components, wherein at least one of the plurality of processing components is an on-line reference tool having a plurality of components and information that is structured into multiple units such that each unit teaches a specific subject and is associated with a specific topic, the on-line reference tool links related units of information to glossary terms and writes at least one question that corresponds to each link, wherein when a user selects a question, at least one unit of information is presented to the user; and

means for viewing information presented by on-line reference tool.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the on-line reference tool comprises:

a repository of links to a content;

the content having information from at least one source, information in the content being structured in a plurality of pages each of which is a unit of information that is related to a specific topic;

a glossary with a plurality of glossary terms each of which is associated with a given subject, a plurality of glossary definitions each of which defines a specific glossary term, a plurality of glossary aliases each of which is an alternate name for a specific glossary term, and a plurality of glossary links each of which links a specific page to an appropriate glossary term and glossary definition; and

at least one subject matter expert editor that filters each linked glossary term and writes a question that corresponds to the linked glossary term, wherein when the user selects the question the system presents at least one page that is associated with the linked glossary term.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the content is structured in a standard course format and sequenced from basic to complex.
4. The system of claim 2, wherein each page is a teaching object that teaches a specific concept and wherein upon creating each teaching object the structure of the teaching object is stored, a unique identifier is assigned to the teaching object, the textual content of the teaching object is used to search for all relevant glossary terms and glossary aliases, and a teaching object identifier is used to produce a hyper-referencing table that links every glossary term to an appropriate page.
5. The system of claim 4, wherein all glossary terms and their corresponding definitions that are related to the specific topic are extracted from the content and stored in the glossary.
6. The system of claim 4, wherein the subject matter expert editor filters each reference in the hyper-referencing table and writes a question that corresponds to the reference.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the subject matter expert editor filters each reference by selecting each link in the hyper-referencing table and determining that a significant reference exists between the glossary term and the teaching object.
8. The system of claim 6, wherein the subject matter expert editor filters each reference by selecting each link in the hyper-referencing table and marking for removal those references that are determined to be irrelevant.
9. The system of claim 6, wherein a modified hyper-referencing table that includes questions created by the subject matter expert editor is stored and the subject matter expert editor reviews all questions in the modified hyper-referencing table and question sequence for every glossary term in the modified hyper-referencing table.
10. An on-line reference tool for quickly retrieving information that is related to a specific topic, the on-line reference tool comprises:
 - a repository of links to a content;
 - the content having information from at least one source, information in the content is structured in a plurality of pages each of which is a unit of information that is related to a specific term;
 - a plurality of topics each of which includes a plurality of hyper-linked pages each of which teaches a specific concept;

a glossary with a plurality of glossary terms that are associated with a given topic, a plurality of glossary definitions each of which defines a specific glossary term, a plurality of glossary aliases each of which is an alternate name for a specific glossary term, and a plurality of glossary links each of which links a page to an appropriate glossary term and glossary definition; and

at least one subject matter expert editor that filters each linked glossary term and writes a question that corresponds to the linked glossary term, wherein when the user selects the question the system presents at least one page that is associated with the linked glossary term.

11. An on-line reference tool for quickly presenting information that is related to a specific topic to a user, the on-line reference tool comprises:

means for allowing the user to enter a term in a lookup form;

means for searching a content for the term and producing a list of terms, at least one definition for each term, and at least one question for each term that is linked to a teaching object;

means for enabling the user to select one term from the list of terms and a question and an associated answer; and

means for displaying a unit of information that contains the associated answer.

12. The on-line reference tool of claim 11, wherein when searching for the term, if the on-line reference tool finds an exact match, the on-line reference tool produces only the

match in the list of related terms, automatically selects the match and produces the associated definition and questions.

13. The on-line reference tool of claim 11, wherein the user is allowed to filter the number of questions produced for each term and the on-line reference tool presents only those questions in a category that is selected by the user.

14. The on-line reference tool of claim 11, further comprising means for enabling the user to navigate through the on-line reference tool.

15. The on-line reference tool of claim 11, wherein the user is allowed to scroll down a list of questions and select a question, wherein the on-line reference tool automatically displays the answer for each selected question.

16. A method for structuring information that is related to a specific topic so that the structured information can be rapidly presented to a user, the method comprises the steps of:

determining that a content is in a standard course format and sequencing information in the content from basic to complex;

extracting all glossary terms, associated definitions, and aliases that are relevant to a specific concept from the content;

breaking up the content into multiple teaching objects, each of which teaches a concept and is associated with a specific topic;

storing the structure of each topic and assigning a unique identifier to the teaching objects associated with the topic;

using the concept of the teaching object to search the content for all relevant glossary terms and aliases;

using the teaching object identifier to produce a hyper-referencing table that links every glossary term to an appropriate page;

filtering each reference in the hyper-referencing table and writing a corresponding question for the reference; and

storing a modified hyper-referencing table that includes at least one corresponding question, wherein when the user selects a question that is related to a specific term, the appropriate page is presented to the user.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the step of extracting all glossary terms further comprises the step of grouping the glossary terms, associated definitions and aliases in a glossary.

18. A method for rapidly presenting structured information that is related to a specific topic to a user; the method comprises the steps of:

determining that a content is in a standard course format and sequencing information in the content from basic to complex;

extracting all glossary terms, associated definitions, and aliases that are relevant to a specific concept from the content;

breaking up the content into multiple teaching objects, each of which teaches a concept and is associated with a specific topic;

storing the structure of each topic and assigning a unique identifier to the teaching objects associated with the topic;

using the concept of the teaching object to search the content for all relevant glossary terms and aliases;

using the teaching object identifier to produce a hyper-referencing table that links every glossary term to an appropriate page;

filtering each reference in the hyper-referencing table and writing a corresponding question for the reference;

storing a modified hyper-referencing table that includes at least one corresponding question;

allowing the user to enter a term in a lookup form;

searching the content for the term and producing a list of terms, at least one definition for each term, and at least one question for each term that is linked to a teaching object; and

selecting one term from the list of terms and a question and an associated answer, wherein the associated answer displays information in the appropriate page that is linked to the selected term.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of filtering the number of questions produced for each term and presenting only those questions in a category that is selected by the user.

20. A computer-readable medium whose contents cause a computer system to rapidly present structured information that is related to a specific topic to a user, by performing the steps of:

- determining that a content is in a standard course format and sequencing information in the content from basic to complex;

- extracting all glossary terms, associated definitions, and aliases that are relevant to a specific concept from the content;

- breaking up the content into multiple teaching objects, each of which teaches a concept and is associated with a specific topic;

- storing the structure of each topic and assigning a unique identifier to the teaching objects associated with the topic;

- using the concept of the teaching object to search the content for all relevant glossary terms and aliases;

- using the teaching object identifier to produce a hyper-referencing table that links every glossary term to an appropriate page;

- filtering each reference in the hyper-referencing table and writing a corresponding question for the reference;

storing a modified hyper-referencing table that includes at least one corresponding question;

allowing the user to enter a term in a lookup form;

searching the content for the term and producing a list of terms, at least one definition for each term, and at least one question for each term that is linked to a teaching object; and

selecting one term from the list of terms and a question and an associated answer, wherein the associated answer displays information in the appropriate page that is linked to the selected term.

21. An on-line reference tool for quickly retrieving information that is related to a specific topic, the on-line reference tool comprises:

a repository of links to a content;

the content having information from at least one source, information in the content is structured in a plurality of pages each of which is a unit of information that is related to a specific term;

a plurality of topics each of which includes a plurality of hyper-linked pages each of which teaches a specific concept;

a glossary with a plurality of glossary terms that are associated with a given topic, a plurality of glossary definitions each of which defines a specific glossary term, a plurality of glossary aliases each of which is an alternate name for a specific glossary

term, and a plurality of glossary links each of which links a page to an appropriate glossary term and glossary definition; and

means for filtering each linked glossary term and writing a question that corresponds to the linked glossary term, wherein when the user selects the question the system presents at least one page that is associated with the linked glossary term.